

CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

Date Prepared/Updated:

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data	
Country: Seychelles	GEF Project ID: 5784
Project Title: The development of a co-management plan, designed by fishers, to minimize the impact of the Seychelles artisanal fishery on threatened species	
Executing Entity: Green Islands Foundation	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity	
GEF Project Amount: US\$85,000	
Reviewer(s): Ian Kissoon	
Date of Review: May 18, 2016	
Comments: Approved for Implementation Note: Regarding whether the local people are Indigenous or not, the IP Policy would also be triggered if the local people have historical ties to the land or the natural resources in them.	

B. Project Objective:

The objective is to develop a fisher-designed and endorsed series of management measures to reduce the fishing pressure (catch, by-catch and disturbance) on threatened species in the artisanal fishery.

C. Project Description:

Government statistics show a steady decline in overall catch in the artisanal fishery since a peak in 1991. Aside from a few key commercial species national statistics only record species to family level (e.g. Serranidae, Lethrinidae etc.) meaning that the statistics do not record the decline in rare, vulnerable or threatened (IUCN criteria) species. There are historical records/accounts and strong anecdotal evidence, however, that show numerous species have become rare or even disappeared from the catch. The Government of Seychelles, recognizing the failure of traditional top-down management measures, has enabled, under the new 2014 Fisheries Act, the establishment of co-management fishery plans and regulations.

This project will provide a baseline of threatened species occurrence in the artisanal fishery through fisher consultation, literature review and an intensive 12-month survey of artisanal catch. The project will facilitate artisanal fishers to develop a pragmatic, fisher-led approach to reduce artisanal fishing pressure on threatened species. These measures will be developed into an artisanal fishery co-management plan for threatened species to be regulated as a co-management plan under the 2014 Fisheries Act. The project will therefore provide a pragmatic stakeholder-led and regulated

basis to minimize fishery impact upon threatened species, and train technicians to monitor the future occurrence of threatened species catch and thereby enable its adaptive management.

D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

The project will be undertaken on the principal island of Mahé where 90% of artisanal catch is landed. Mahé Plateau is an area of approximately 39,000km² in Seychelles and is a vast mid-oceanic shallow sub-marine shelf, which supports the Seychelles artisanal fishery.

The Seychelles was uninhabited for most of its history. Arab traders and visiting sailors and pirates used the islands occasionally; the islands were colonized by France in the 1770's. This relatively short history and lack of indigenous peoples, has resulted in a multiracial community based on immigration from Africa, Asia and Europe, a community composition which is reflected in the artisanal fishery as well.

Fishing is a vital economic sector for Seychelles and central to national food security. Seychelles has one of the highest fish protein consumption levels in the world at approximately 70kg per capita per annum. In 2012, the fisheries sector employed approximately 5,500 people or 12% of total formal employment. Of these the artisanal fishery constitutes between 1,300 – 1,400 fishers depending on seasonal variations.

Fishing in Seychelles, much like many places in the world, is an almost exclusively male practice. In Seychelles it is not so much gender exclusion, but rather a choice of women not to participate in such work (demanding physical labour in difficult, all-weather and cramped working conditions, and lack of privacy on fishing vessels) although some boat owners and fish vendors are female. Women are however very prominent in fishery research, management and administration and the project will place an emphasis on mainstreaming women in the implementation, training and capacity building components of the project. In addition, part of the project team will be female; the GIF project officer for this project is Ms. Jennifer Appoo. This project will support the training of women from the Seychelles Fishing Authority, research agencies and NGOs in fishery monitoring, data collection and management.

In the Ibrahim index for African Governance, Seychelles ranks traditionally high for gender equality. Seychelles society is said to be matriarchal, both at home and in the public sphere. According to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, over 55% of households are headed by women. This census also showed that 67% of all women aged 15-65 participate in the labour force, close behind a participation of 77.2% of men. So even though women are underrepresented in fisheries, they are well represented in the service, professional and administrative workforce, evening out gender balance overall.

Fishers' traditional knowledge and a literature review will be used to develop a baseline of the past and present occurrence of threatened species (IUCN classifications: VU, EN, CR); this will be complemented by a 12 month intensive survey of the artisanal catch. Fishers will be supported through the process of identifying pragmatic measures (e.g. catch release, reduced fishing effort on critical habitats, gear modification etc) that they collectively agree to undertake to reduce the catch of threatened species and these will be developed and formalized into an artisanal fishery plan for the management of threatened species on the Mahé Plateau.

E. Executing Entity’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

Not assessed

II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
1. Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)		X		
<i>Justification: No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>				
2. Natural Habitats		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing to alter natural habitats</i>				
3. Involuntary Resettlement	X			
<i>Justification: The project does not propose any voluntary resettlement however, access/use of natural resources may be restricted: “Fishers will be supported through the process of identifying pragmatic measures (e.g. catch release, reduced fishing effort on critical habitats, gear modification, etc.) that they collectively agree to undertake to reduce the catch of threatened species and these will be developed and formalized into an artisanal fishery plan for the management of threatened species on the Mahé Plateau.”</i>				
4. Indigenous Peoples	X			
<i>Justification: GEF sees Indigenous Peoples as distinct communities whose identity and culture are inextricably linked to the land, territories and natural resources they depend upon. While the project states that there are no Indigenous Peoples in the project area, there is mention of communities that traditionally rely on the natural resources of the area.</i>				
5. Pest Management		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to pest management.</i>				
6. Physical & Cultural Resources		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to physical and cultural resources.</i>				
7. Stakeholder Engagement	X			
<i>Justification: The project will involve local communities, NGOs, and government, among others. Effective participation of these key stakeholders must be facilitated by the project.</i>				
8. Gender mainstreaming	X			
<i>Justification:</i>				
9. Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	X			
<i>Justification: As a publicly funded GEF project, participants need to be able submit complaints or raise grievances with the Executing Agency and the Project Agency.</i>				

III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

From information provided in the Safeguard Screening Form, this project has triggered five safeguard polices. These are:

- I. *Restriction of Access to and Use of Natural Resources,*
- II. *Indigenous Peoples*
- III. *Stakeholder Engagement,*
- IV. *Gender Mainstreaming, and*
- V. *Grievance Mechanism.*

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

No indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen at this time.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

The proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. As such, no better alternative can be conceived at this time.

4. Describe measures to be taken by the Executing Entity to address safeguard policy issues.

I. *Restriction of Access to/Use of Natural Resources (Involuntary Resettlement policy)*

*This project will trigger restriction of access to and use of natural resources. This is can be a sensitive issue, particularly for people whose survival and livelihood depend on such resources. Stakeholder engagement will be key here and should be among the very first set of activities. The resource users need to be aware upfront of the project and how it will affect them, and the project in turn will need to address their concerns. Following initial consultations, the project is **required** to prepare a simplified Process Framework document describing the following:*

- (a) conservation actions to be undertaken by the resource users,*
- (b) the short-term and long-term implications of the conservation actions, and*
- (c) consent of the resource users for the implementation of the conservation actions.*

The simplified Process Framework document must be approved by the Executing Entity before signing and implementation.

II. *Indigenous Peoples*

*Given the small size of the project grant, an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** to follow and document the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process when interacting with communities who depend on the natural resources of the project area, and from whom traditional knowledge would be collected as part of fish stock assessment.*

III. *Stakeholder Engagement*

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** ensure active stakeholder participation and to reflect stakeholder engagement activities in the annual workplan. Please document the date, location and participants (gender disaggregated) along with meeting notes of all*

stakeholder engagement activities. The documentation of these activities can be supported (not required) with photographs, video and audio recordings.

Also agree with stakeholders on where, when and how information will be disseminated back to them following a meeting/consultation.

IV. Gender

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** to reflect gender disaggregated activities in the annual workplan. The design of activities and consultations should consider the needs and schedules of both men and women. Please document how many men and women were consulted, participated in project activities, and benefitted/affected by the project. Also ensure that men and women are not adversely impacted and receive equal opportunities in planning, decision-making and implementation in a way that is culturally appropriate and acceptable.*

V. Grievance Mechanism

*An Accountability and Grievance Mechanism is **required** to ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Entity for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and also disclosed to all stakeholders in a manner/means that best suits the local context.*

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

The key stakeholders are the government (Seychelles Fishing Authority), local communities, research agencies, and NGOs.

The mechanisms for consultation and disclosure should be culturally appropriate, gender sensitive, effective, and in keeping with local customs. Engagement can take the form of village meetings, group meetings, workshops, interviews/surveys, etc. and done using local languages and methods. The Executing Entity should take these contexts into consideration when designing engagement activities.



IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
<i>Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.</i>			

V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard Plan	CI Disclosure Date	In-Country Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	NA	NA
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	NA	NA
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)	NA	NA
Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval
Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	IPP not required. FPIC process to be documented	IPP not required. FPIC process to be documented
Pest Management Plan (PMP)	NA	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval	No later than inception workshop/kick-off meeting

VI. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Vice President: 	Name: Miguel Morales	Date: 2016-06-08
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Safeguard Manager: 	Name: Ian Kissoon	Date: 2016-05-31
Project Manager:	Name: Orissa Samaroo	Date: